

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising operating a control node of a communication network at a packet  
2 bandwidth determined according to observations of performance metrics of the network at  
3 the control point.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the performance metrics comprise one or more of  
2 throughput, average fetch time and packet loss.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the control node is operated so as to set a control  
2 bandwidth to corresponding resonance points of the performance metrics.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the resonance points are determined by scanning across a  
2 range of control bandwidths until one or more of the performance metrics is/are optimized.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the packet bandwidth is set by varying an inter-packet  
2 delay time over selected communication links at the control node.